PERMIT NUMBER 980 A

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1967

BERNAL HEIGHTS journal

AQUI HABLA ESPANOL:..
- Page 3

VOL. 4, NO. 1

Bernal Heights Association

Souvenir Edition

FOURTH ANNUAL STREET FAIR, SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 1967

COME TO THE FAIR

Among the highlights of the fourth annual Bernal Heights Fair, to be held Sunday, August 27, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Precita Green (Precita Avenue between Folsom and Alabama Streets), will be:

. . . A record number of exhibitors - artists, craftsmen, sculptors and photographers
. . . P G & E Atomic Exhibit Trailer
. . . FREE goldfish from B&H Tropical Fish for the children
. . . Country singers Joe and Linda Edmiston
. . . Summer Dance Theatre, with modern dances
. . . The Julian Theatre, presenting excerpts from Chekov's "The Marriage Proposal"
. . . The Cayuga Folk Twirlers
. . . The Pacific Ballet, presenting Spanish sonnets
. . . Photography Exhibit: Bernal Hts. by B. H. photographers
. . . Kiddies' Korner: activities for children
. . . Authentic Filipino entertainment
. . . The Netherlands Group
. . . Alan Olson, presenting Judy King
. . . The 2-1/2's in Caribbean dances
. . . Peter Wright creative Dance Company
. . . White elephant booth - bargains galore
. . . Tap dancers Susanne LaPice and Janice Arnienti
. . . Food booth manned by NAACP
. . . City Planning Department exhibits: FACE (federal assistance to code enforcement): neighborhood improvement program.

Lots more. Come, See, and Enjoy. . .

1966 Fair had everything from bargain counters, to sculpture, to entertainment, to family picnics. Photographs by Richard Gamble, Mark Green.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27th

FAIR 'HAPPENINGS'

A SUMMARY

EXHIBITS - Paintings, Sculpture, Jewelry, Ceramics; many other crafts and hobbies.

ENTERTAINMENT - all day . . . dancers, singers, drama, musical groups

PHOTOGRAPHY - exhibits; photos for sale

GREEN AREA - plants for sale; Parade of Trees; information on tree planting, sign-up with help of S.F. beautiful, and Trees for the City.

SCIENCE TRAILER - from Pacific Telephone Co.

ATOMIC DISPLAY TRAILER - from PG&E

X-RAY UNIT - by Tuberculosis Society; for 18 years and above, free chest X-rays.

WHITE ELEPHANTS - useable discards at prices that are CHEAP

FABRICS - NEW and excellent quality

KIDS'KORNER - small kids can paint; stories and games.

CHILDREN'S RIDES - auto and airplane

GIRLS' CLUB - sewing done by the girls; food; all for sale

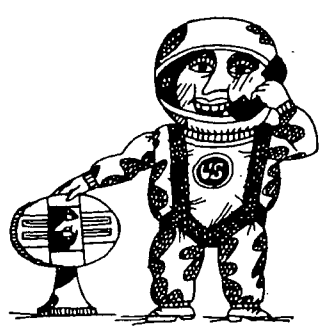
CONFECTIONS, COFFEE - by St. John the Evangelist Church

FOOD - sponsored by N.A.A.C.P.

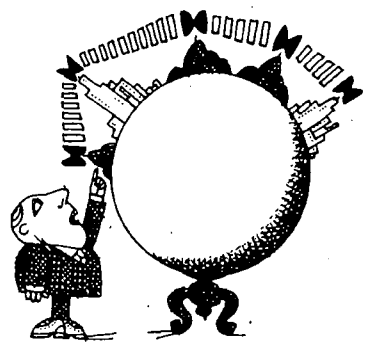
BERNAL HTS. ASSOCIATION BOOTH - present activities, future plans

INFORMATIONAL BOOTHS from SPUR, Department of Employment, Department of City Planning, Greater Mission Citizens Council.

Plan to visit Pacific Telephone's Scientific Exhibits Trailer at Precita Park Street Fair



PHONES OF TOMORROW



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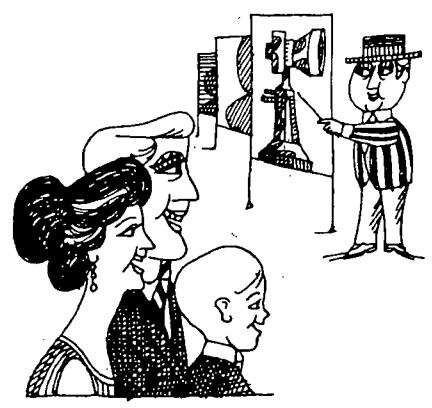

EXHIBITS AND DEMONSTRATIONS FOR EVERYONE

Sunday, August 27, 1967

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Plants . . . . . Bud Robbins
Photography . . . . . Mark Green, Chm.
Arno Parik George Vinsant Cora Parik
Kid's Korner . . Mimi Mueller Martha Stookey
Office Manager . . . . . Nellie Saunders
Signs & Posters . . . . John Frey Ivan Jensen
Entertainment . . . . . Jerald Collins, Chm
George Johnson Dorothea Santos Ness Aquino
White Elephants . . . . . Iva Tompkins
Fabrics . . . . . Kay Egger
Set up & Tear Down . . . . . Walter Curtis
Publicity . . Bud Robbins, Chm. Sandra Hensen

A Thank-You for Special Help

Thomas J. Mellon, S.F. Chief Administrative Officer; Recreation-Park Department; Pacific Gas & Electric; Pacific Telephone Co.; Professional Color Laboratory; Atlantic-Richfield Oil Co.; San Francisco Police Department. Apologies to those omitted as of printing deadline.

Judges, Art Show

EDO PRATINI, Director, Artists' Cooperative

MARTIN SNIPPER, Secretary, San Francisco Art Commission

WALTER STANTON, M.D., private collector

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¡VAMOS A LA ESCUELA, MADRE!

El Miercoles, el trece de septiembre, otra vez compezeran los clases para observar a los hijos. Las madres, con sus hijos de dos, tres, y cuatro anos, se reunen una manana cada semana desde las nueve hasta los doce de mediodia; los hijos para jugar juntos bajo la inspeccion de una profesors; las madres para observar a los hijos y luego para reunirse con la profesora por una hora para discutir el desarollo de los hijos. Aunque la senora Syme, la profesora, no habla espanol, varias madres en la clase hablan ambos espanol e ingles y se alegran de traducir para las madres que hablan solamente espanol.

LIFE y GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

La senorita Margaret Kostouros, bibliotecaria de la Bernal Branch de la biblioteca publica, anuncia que las revistas Life y Good Housekeeping seran obtenibles a la biblioteca en espanol empezando en enero. Ahora recibe las biblioteca Reader's Digest (Selecciones) en espanol y tiene una coleccion pequena de libros para los ninos y para los adultos. La biblioteca esta abierta los lunes, los martes, y los miercoles desde el mediodia hasta las nueve de la noche, los jueves desde el mediodia hasta los seis, y los viernes desde las once hasta las seis. Y no cuesta nada para obtener una tarjeta de las biblioteca.

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BERNAL ACCIÓN FOR PROGRESO AYUDA LA COMUNIDAD

Bernal Heights tiene su propio programa vecinario para ayudar a los familias de poco sueldo para ayudar a si mismos bajo el Economic Opportunity Act pasado por el Congreso en 1964.

La oficina de Bernal Heights, "Bernal Action for Progress," esta situada a 301 Cortland Ave. El director es Bonifacio Silverio, un residente elejedo por la comunidad. Tiene un cuerpo asistente de personas que hablan muchas linguas que incluye el senor Jimmy Ginn, jefe, y miembros Ness Aquino, Georgia Kelly, y Sybil Dixon.

La oficina ofrece tales servicios como asistencia para ayuda legal, un proyeto de fianza, relaciones entre la plicia y la comunidad, y programas para la salud y examinaciones de la salud.

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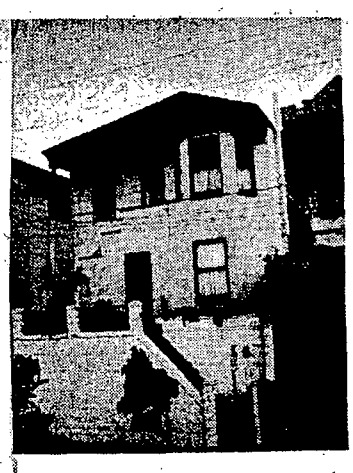
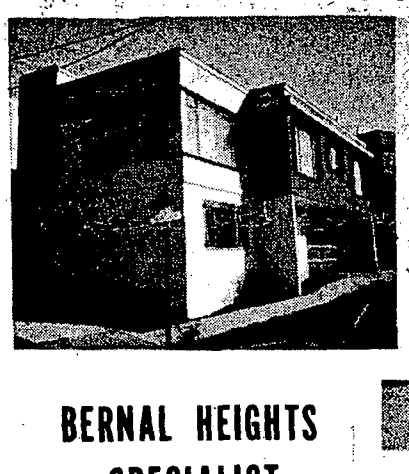

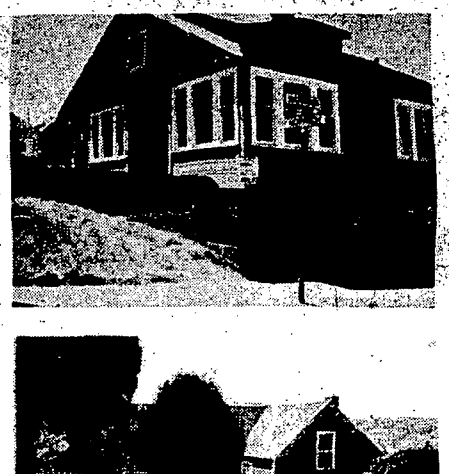
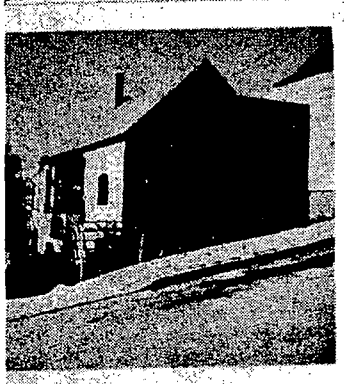

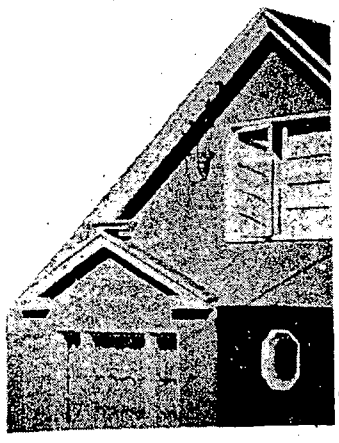

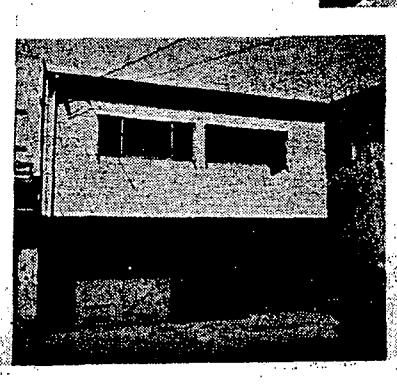
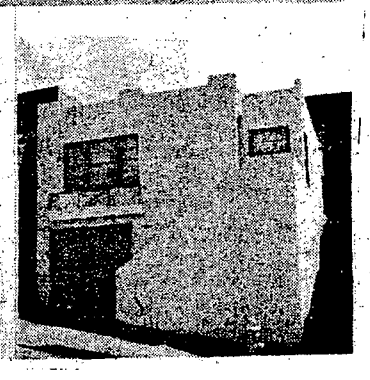

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MARTINIS REALTY

Frances Spencer is surrounded by just a few of the 200 girls who keep her busy these days. Photograph by HANK MEALS.

Bernal Girls' Club in Full Swing

The Girls Club, under the very capable leadership of Mrs. Frances Spencer, is now funded by the Economic Opportunity Council and sponsored by the YWCA.

Prior to the Fall of 1966 the Bernal Heights girls club was informally organized and run by volunteers under sponsorship of the Bernal Heights Association. Mrs. Spencer, who was then a community aide for the EOC, wanted a larger and more active club for the girls of Bernal Heights. With YWCA help, a plan was proposed for a community girls' club which would serve a threefold purpose:

(1) It would provide leadership training for women in the community.

(2) It would create part-time jobs for women in the community.

(3) It would provide supervised recreation activities for girls.

The plan was enthusiastically received and was in actual operation in September 1966.

The Bernal Heights Girls Club is now in full swing, including 211 girls between the ages of 7 and 12 from both sides of the Hill. There are three meetings weekly with sessions for different age groups. Each group consists of between 10 and 12 girls supervised by one adult leader and one junior aide, who must be at least 16 years old.

The Girls Club involves 26 paid employees (adult leaders and junior aides) who meet for a three-hour training session weekly with a training supervisor appointed by the YWCA. Topics of discussion include leadership, crafts training, and girls between 7 and 12, their interests, and problems.

In the coming year, in addition to expanding the girls club, there is the possibility of a boys club.

If you wish to enroll your daughter, call Mrs. Spencer, 648-2245, or visit the Office at 406 Precita Ave.

'Let's Go To School, Mother!'

On Wednesday, September 13, the child observation classes will begin again on Bernal Heights. Mothers, with their 2, 3, and 4-year old children, meet together one morning a week from 9 a.m. to 12 noon; the children to play together under a teacher's supervision, the mothers to observe the children and then meet with the teacher for one hour to discuss child development.

You may phone the Family-Life Education Service of the San Francisco Public Schools, Adult Education Division, at 431-1400, for more information, but you do not need to register in advance to attend this free class. Just come to the Bernal Branch Library's downstairs meeting room at 500 Cortland Ave. at 9:00 a.m. on any Wednesday or Thursday from September 13th on.

* * * * *

And don't forget that the Library itself has helpful books on child care, as well as many amusing picture books for you to read aloud to your children. The Bernal Branch Library is open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 12 noon to 9 p.m., Thursday from noon to 6 p.m., Friday from 1 to 6 p.m.

Bernal Action For Progress Helps Our Community

Bernal Heights has its own neiborhood program to help low income families help themselves under the Economic Opportunity Act, passed by Congress in 1964. It is Bernal Action for Progress. Chairman is Benifacio Silverio. Multi-lingual staff members include Georgia Kelly, Ness Aquine, Sybil Dixon, and Jimmie Ginn and offer our community such services as: Neighborhood Legal Assistance, Bail Project, Police Community Relations, Health and Screening Programs.

Since it's beginning in 1965, Bernal Heights citizens of all walks of life have enthusiastically cooperated, working endless hours in the formation of outstanding working programs to aid Bernal Heights. Mickey Marte and Frances Spencer organized the well known Girl's Club, now an EOC-funded project, ably directed by Frances Spencer, May Horros, Edward Anderson, Jimmy Ginn, District Supervisors are tireless workers who have participated in the formation of program and organization, BAP is incorporated and on Board of Directors are Walter Stanton, Pastor Don North of the Assembly of God Church, and Proteone Malveauz.

Attention is being given to organization of new community programs affecting all Bernal Heights residents; they include: a concentrated employment program, acquisition of a Child Care Center, traffic problems, recreation facilities, and property taxes.

What are you doing to improve Bernal Heights? Visit the Bernal Action for Progress office at 301 Cortland, and find out what working together can accomplish.

St. Kevin's

"Seven Steps To Awareness", is the name of a series of meetings to be held beginning in September at St. Kenin's School of Religion.

It is a program designed to draw other members of the community to a better understanding of each other by presenting the Church's social teachings. All members of the community are invited to participate.

Beginning August 27, public school students will be registered for St. Kevin's School of Religion. In connection with this, St. Kevin's CCD will host a Catechetical Sunday program on September 10, after each morning Mass. Displays will feature activities of the School of Religion and Adult Education.

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Neighborhood Children Enjoy Themselves at Precita Center; and it looks like Jerry Schimmel, Center Director, also has a pleasant time on his job.

Expands Activities

Mission Precita center, formerly Precita Youth Center, 534 Precita Ave., is expanding its services in order to meet community demand, according to Jerry Schimmel, Center director and Bernal Heights resident.

"The focus of our activities is community development of parents' groups and neighborhood groups in order to develop the kind of services they think is needed," he said.

Programs for fall will include continuation of Bernal Girls' club; young mothers' club for teenage mothers; working more closely with Bernal Dwelling Association, made up of tenants in projects on Army Street; and, if the demand is there, English language classes, services for senior citizens, and activities for parents.

Mission Precita Center has just completed a Summer Creative Arts program for grade-school boys and girls in cooperation with S.F. Community Music Center and Golden Gate Neighborhood Assn.

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GRACE'S 'The Corner'
ANNOUNCES IT'S ANNUAL
LUAU DAZE
OVER LABOR DAY WEEKEND, SEPT. 2,3,4, 1967

from the chronicle of
NANNYGOAT HILL

It was a great day when the boys of Bernal Heights set on the poundmaster and beat the daylights out him. He had it coming, that one.

A hundred years ago, Bernal Heights was Nannygoat Hill, and most people on it were Irish. There were a few small dairies, some truck gardens and even a few green houses. A remnant of those can still be seen near the end of Cortland Avenue, with some lovely old palm trees by their side.

On top of the range, between the peaks, was the municipal dog pound. The city paid the poundmaster no salary, but he was entitled to keep what fines he and his son, the dog catcher, could squeeze out of the citizens.

And squeeze he did. No pampered pet in its fenced back yard was safe from the dognappers. The people on the hill did not mind that. Their own mongrels were not touched, and who would begrudge an honest man a dishonest dollar?

Success spoiled the dog catcher. Up there, above the cows and goats, he began to dream of pot cheese and cream. And one day he seized and imprisoned Widder O'Brien's cow.

Widder O'Brien had a son who went to the Boy's High School, later to become Lowell High. It was not a small thing for a poor widow to send her only boy through high school, in those days! Young Bob O'Brien called on his friends, the alarm went out like a bugle call. Nearly a hundred husky boys stormed the canine fortress on the hill. The dog catchers saw them come and had mustered some of their own cronies. In the pitched battle, the boys, who were young and quick - and sober - won a glorious victory. They ripped down the gloomy shacks that served as kennels, and the yelping, barking prisoners loped down the hill to freedom. Widder O'Brien's Effie was led home in triumph. Let us hope, friends, that there was free cottage cheese for all! A fine bonfire burned that night on the site of the old dog pound, and no new one was every built until the Humane Society was founded.

* * * *

Some of us on this hill have heard the story of Jack Lally's fortune from people old enough to have been present in their early years. In the late eighties or early nineties, (the exact date is lost) one Jack Lally inherited $15,000, celebrated too hard, fell into Egan's ditch and died. At the wake, his widow Rosie did not spare the liquid refreshment. The keening lasted for a month, and when a guest threatened to fall off the chair, the others tied him on with twine. When the wake was over, Rosie married a German waiter and they took off on their honeymoon on Welch's dump cart. They celebrated for four days and four nights. How much of the original $15,000 was left, history does not record.

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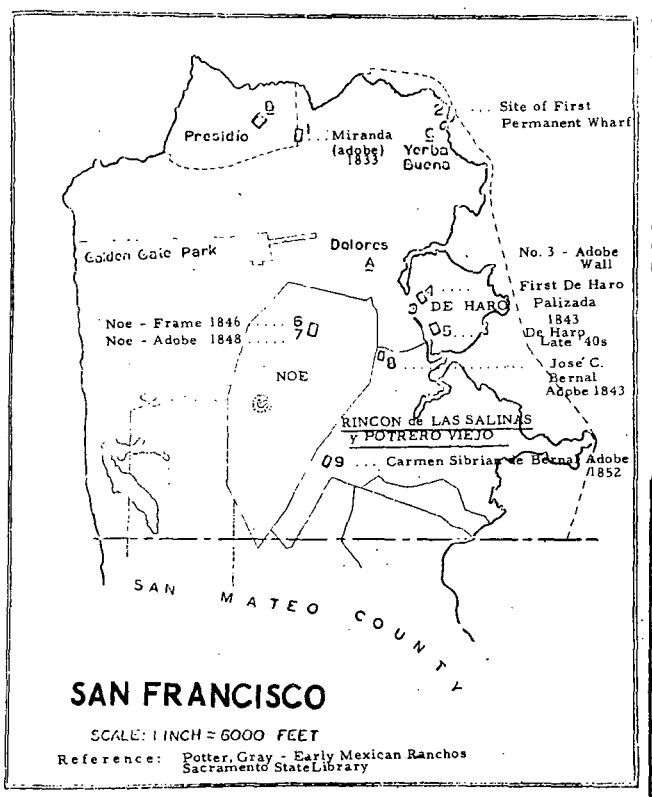

SAN FRANCISCO

SCALE: 1 INCH = 6000 FEET

Reference: Potter, Gray - Early Mexican Ranchos Sacramento State Library

The First Bernals

By LEE EGGER

Bernal Heights is named after Don Juan Francisco Bernal, one of the original soldiers in the expedition of Don Juan Batista de Anza, who discovered San Francisco in 1776.

The expedition left Sinaloa in September 1775 with a party of 240. The crossing was made in mid-winter, crossing hundreds of miles of arid, rugged country, much of which was ranged by war making Apaches.

Inventory records of 1793 show that the Bernals were some of the rich men of the Presidio.

Bernal geneaology includes Don Juan Francisco, born 1737, and his descendants Juan Francisco Jr. 1763, and Jose Cornelio, 1795. The latter was Mayor-domo of Mission Dolores and his hacienda or adobe stood on the edge of St. Luke's hospital on Duncan Street.

The original Bernal land grant included all the coastal hills and valleys of the Rincon de las Salinas (salt marsh range) and reached from Army Street to San Bruno Mountain. (see Map above).

It would honor the Bernal family if a Rancho Bernal Community Center could be established in Bernal Heights where it would command a vista of the Bernal Land grant so that history loving San Franciscans could come, forget their cares and briefly have a rendezvous with the serene pastoral times of the past, and maintain the history of the founding of San Francisco.

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Thoughts On Property Taxes

Action based on facts and understanding of consequences should be the theme of everyone, rather than emotions or personal interest in every aspect of property assessment.

Land, as the basis of taxation, first drew the eyes of the tax assessor in England some 600 years ago, based on the assumption that taxes should be assessed in accordance with a man's ability to pay.

At that time, the extent and quality of a man's agricultural holdings were a dependable index of his ability to pay.

Today, the law for many years has been, that all property shall be appraised and assessed periodically at 100% of its fair cash value. Until recently, however, County tax assessors have taken upon themselves to develop their own formula for tax assessments.

Enactment of bill AB 80 requires all assessors to place a tax lien of 25% of the property's fair cash value.

Many persons who have purchased new homes or who have abided by the law and obtained a building permit when making home improvements have had their home appraised at a higher rate than those who have made no improvements or have illegally made them.

Others have not had their homes reassessed in over 20 years. AB 80 corrects this by directing the county assessor to appraise all property periodically.

There appears little doubt, that the section of AB 80 which calls for a 25% assessment of all property will be amended to appraise and assess income and business property, at a higher rate.

Many persons are making suggestions to help eliminate the tax burden on home owners.

Taxes are both a privilege and obligation. Everyone should have an opportunity to be heard and everyone has an obligation to hear all viewpoints and objectively try to analyze them for himself.

BERNAL HEIGHTS MYSTERY HOUSE

Bernal Heights has its own "mystery" or "little Winchester" house in Miniver House, circa 1870, the Victorian home located on the corner of Richland and Murray Streets, owned by Mr. and Mrs. William Cutcomb.

The owners, who are doing their own rennovation work, seriously doubt that they will ever be finished.

Like the Winchester house, they have a door leading to nowhere which may be seen from the Richland side of the house.

There is also a small chamber or room in the windmill tower which has a very small door, the inside of which has never been explored.

There is also a outhouse on the second floor built by a previous tenant for the convenience of his 12 children.

The well site may still be seen, and although the windmill has vanished with the farmlands and goats of Bernal Heights, the windmill tower remains permanently affixed to the back of the house.

The Cutcombs in their renovation work are gradually replacing all traces of modernity to conform to an old look and their own brand of Victoriania.

Miniver House has been selected by the San Francisco Junior Chamber of Commerce as a home worthy of permanent preservation.

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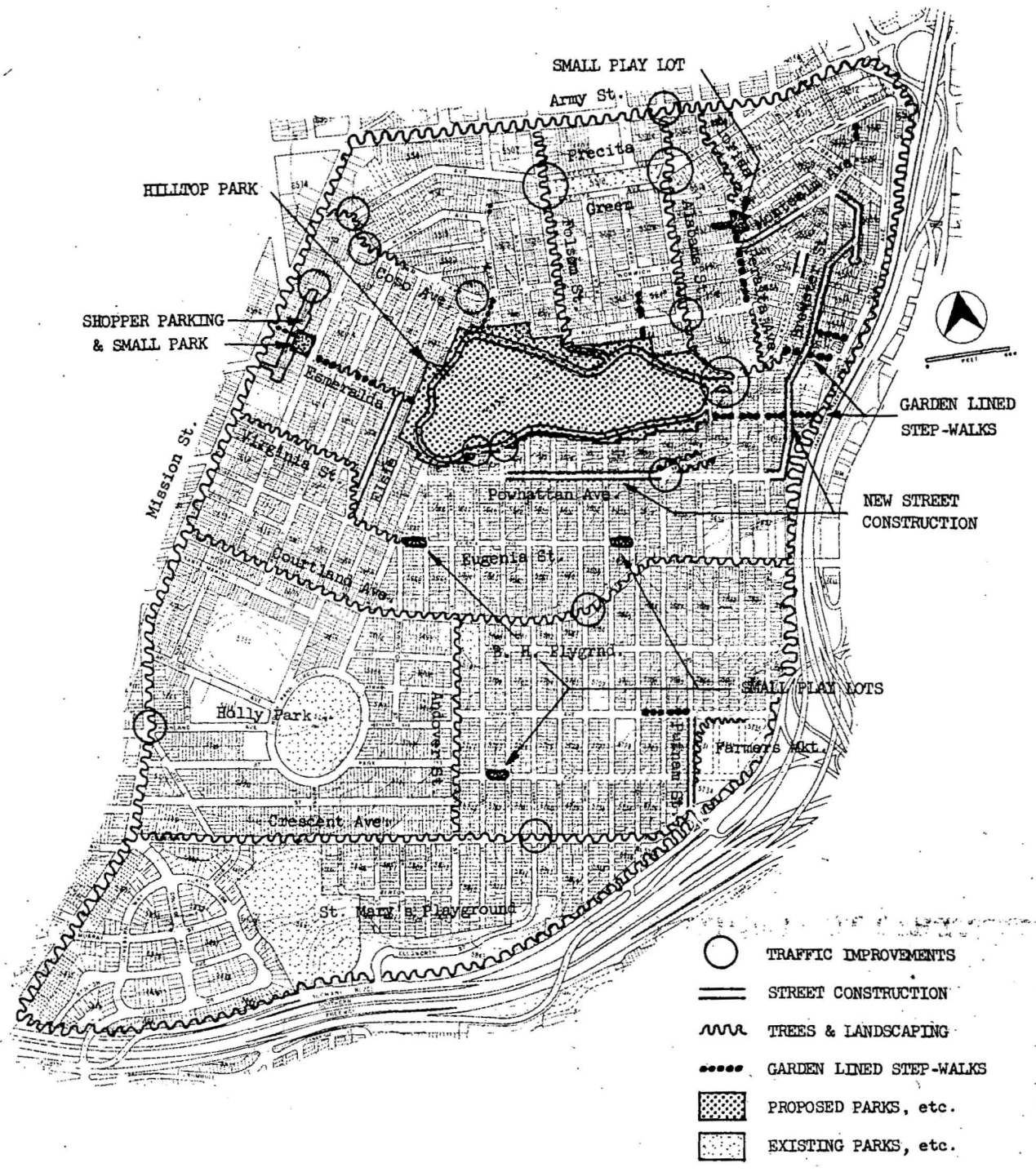

NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN
BERNAL HEIGHTS ASSOCIATION

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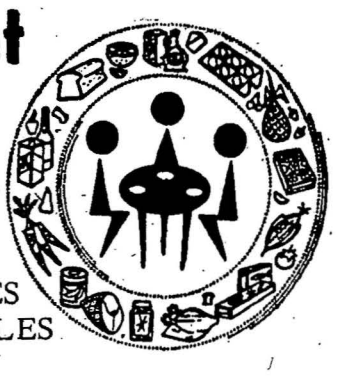


500 PRECITA AT 2-8086

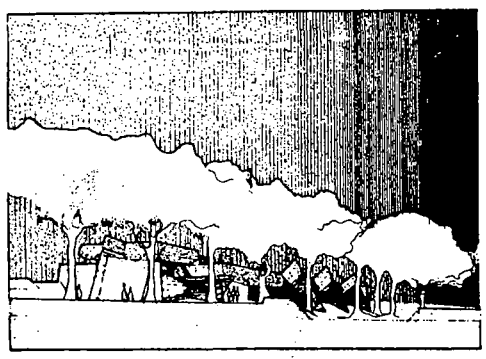
WHAT THE PLAN PROPOSES.....

trees and landscaping

Street trees and landscaped areas are recommended throughout the neighborhood, especially along the thoroughfares and main entrance streets. Rutledge Street (left) shows how trees enhance the houses, even on very narrow sidewalks.

garden lined step-walks

Unpavable streets, like Peralta Avenue (above) hold potential charm as great as Telegraph Hill. Filbert Street, (right) below Coit Tower, shows the possibilities.



bernal heights park

A park on top of the hill with paths, picnic areas and vista points has long been in the City Plan. We hope to add a recreational arts building (left) and play areas terraced into the eastern end of the hill.

"postage stamp" parks

Five small park-play lots, like this one (below) on 7th Avenue near Geary Boulevard, are proposed for areas not close to the larger parks.

traffic improvements

Hazardous streets and intersections are circled on the plan. Some need widening or realigning, but most only require crosswalks, signals, stop signs, parking restrictions. or one-way traffic.

street paving

We still have cowpaths on Bernal Heights! The plan calls for paving six streets, including Elsie Street (left) where construction began, but is temporarily halted.

have other ideas?.....

Use the suggestion sheet at the fair, voice them at BHA meetings, or write to our president

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For Their Future ...and Yours

The Bernal Heights Association is a group of neighbors, working together to improve their neighborhood. Each, Bernal Heights neighbors gather in biggest number at our Annual Street Fair. It seems appropriate, then, to take this occasion to look at the ways of neighborliness all through the year.

Some of us own our homes; others rent them. All of us, however, like living in Bernal Heights and want to keep it a good place to live for ourselves, for our children, and for our senior citizens. All of us would like to see it an even better neighborhood.

To this goal, the Association is dedicated. Do join your neighbors at the Fair this year. But do also join them in their efforts year-round, on behalf of Bernal Heights.

Sally Green, President

CONTINUING CONCERNS

A number of issues have claimed, and will continue to claim, the attention of Bernal Heights residents:

NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN - Bernal Heights is the first neighborhood to come up with its own plan, pulled together from your comments, suggestions, and requests, over a series of many months and meetings. The plan is reproduced on pages 10 and 11 of this newspaper; it was exhibited at last year's fair, and elsewhere.

It's been discussed; with the Mayor's office, with members of the Board of Supervisors, with the staff of SPUR. Now pending is a request to the City Planning Commission to give official City approval to the plan developed for Bernal Heights by Bernal Heights. Seems like a lot of talk . . . but these steps all have to be taken if we are to get the plan into action. Meanwhile, we welcome more talk -- from you. The neighborhood plan is always open for improvement, additions, amendment. Make yourself heard, if you haven't already done so, at Association meetings.

Meanwhile, some action, too, has been taken. . .

TRAFFIC PROBLEMS were included in the plan. The traffic petitions, on display at last year's Fair, were circulated; over 1,000 signatures collected; and they've been sent on to City Hall. The City has promised to study our requests; they report that, the request for no parking on Fair Avenue, has already been put into effect.

PARKS, PLAY LOTS are also in the works. The Department of Public Works and U.C. Design Center are cooperating with us in developing plans for the Peralta steps and play lot. Property owners adjacent to the area met at the Pariks; others have been heard from; and residents in the vicinity will be again contacted as plans proceed.

FACE OR WHAT? Help to home owners in improving their property, to match the hoped-for public improvements has been explored, and is still being looked at. Which program offers most for our Hill? A committee will look at FACE, the program of federal assistance for code enforcement, with its provisions for low-interest loans and grants. Interested? Call Dick Gamble.

TOP-OF-THE-HILL will continue to be a concern. Steps have now been taken to acquire the last piece of land the City needs to complete the park area; we'll be having a special committee to push for early starts on the long-promised park.

COMMUNITY CENTER. The plan visualizes a new community center for Bernal Heights; first discussions are starting to see how to make this, too, a reality.

PROPERTY TAXES are a very deep concern of Hill home owners; a special committee headed by Ken Wurch offers the general background information printed elsewhere; the Association, at their recommendation, urged Supervisors and legislators to find means to give immediate relief to those on limited or very low incomes; and to help the people of our area, predominantly families of modest-income, to keep the homes acquired with so much effort. The search for good, long range solutions will continue.

PRIVATE INITIATIVE has also been active, particularly in the "keep Bernal green" area. Larry Frias has been planting trees on top of the hill; and the telephone company came through on their promise of landscaping around the tower. We're constantly hearing of individual home owners getting together to plant street trees; most noteworthy (of those who came to our attention; we're sure there are others who also deserve recognition): last year's effort on Mullen by Jim Lovegren accounts for 10 trees on that street; This year Don Flaten organized the planting of 12 trees on Massasoit.

Talk about the present and future . . . when Supervisors came to Bernal Heights (below) to discuss issues of concern to the Hill. From left to right: Bill Cassidy; Supervisors Terry Francois, Leo McCarthy, and Joe Beeman; Larry Buttwinick; Sally Green. Photo by Mark Green.

And Action on the Hill, too . . . by home owners. Ripley Street (bottom, left) has the distinction of having the most trees planted in the last year or so. A special award will be presented at the Fair; other streets will get honorable mention.

The end of a story . . . After all the words, a picture (bottom, center) . . . the last section of paving on Elsie Street going into place. 'Nuff said' Bottom photos by Larry Buttwinick.

BHA BOARD AND COMMITTEES

NEXT MEETING
BERNAL HEIGHTS ASSOCIATION
Wed., September 13,
7:30 P.M.
Recreation Center
Moultrie and Jarboe Sts.

Comments on present activities; suggestions for future directions of the Association, compliments (or complaints) . . . we welcome them all. Let your Association Board members or committee chairmen know how you feel:

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Vice President	Richard Gamble	MI 8-4158
Recording Secretary	Bud Robbins	MI 8-8558
Corresponding Secy.	Eleanor Vinsant	VA 6-2004
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